A REMONSTRANCE OF THE STATE OF The *KINGDOME.*

Agreed on by the Lords and Commons assembled in Parliament, and published by Order of both Houses.

H. Elsyng. Cler. Parl. D. Com.

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A REMONSTRANCE OF The State of the Kingdome.

THe infinite wiſdome and providence of the Almighty God hath been abundantly manifeſted ſince the beginning of this Parliament, in great variety of protections and bleſſings, whereby he hath not onely delivered us from many wicked plots and deſigns, which (if they had taken effect) would have brought ruine and deſtruction upon this Kingdome; but out of thoſe attempts hath produced divers evident and remarkable advantages, to the furtherance of thoſe ſervices which we have been deſirous to performe to our Soveraigne Lord the King, and to this Church and State.

And although the heads of the malignant party, diſappointed of that prey the Religion and Liberty of this Kingdom, which they were ready to ſeize upon, and devoure before the beginning of this Parliament, have ſtill perſiſted by new practices both of Forces and ſubtlety, to recover the ſame again: for which purpoſe they have made ſeverall attempts for the bringing up the Army, they afterwards projected the accuſation of the Lo: *Kimbolton*, and the five Members of the Houſe of Commons. They have adviſed His Majeſty to ſuffer unjuſt ſcandals and imputations upon the Parliament to be publiſhed in His name, whereby they might make it odious

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tious to the people, and by their help to destroy that which hitherto hath been the onely means of their own preservation.

For this purpose they have drawn His Majesty into the Northern parts, far from the Parliament, that false rumors might have time to get credit, and the just defences of the Parliament find a more tedious and disadvantagious accesse: Which the more speedily to effect, they have caused a Presse to be transported to York, from whence severall papers and writings of that kind are conveyed to all the parts of the Kingdome.

Amongst divers writings of this kind, We the Lords and Commons in Parliament have taken into consideration two printed Papers, the first containing *A Declaration*, which they received from His Majesty, in answer to that which was presented to His Majesty at *New-market*. The other, *His Majesties Answer to the Petition of both Houses*, presented to His Majesty at *York*: both which are filled with harsh censures, and causeless charges upon the Parliament.

We know no occasion given by us, that might move His Majesty to tell us, that in our Declaration there were some expressions different from the usuall language to Princes; Neither did we tell His Majesty, either in words or effect, that if he did not joyne with us in our Acts, which His Majesty conceived might prove prejudiciall to himselfe and the whole Kingdome, we would make a Law without him, and impose it upon the people; that which we desired was, that in regard of the imminent danger of the Kingdome, the *Militia*, for the security of His Majesty and people, might be put under the command of such noble and faithfull persons as they had cause to confide in, and such was the necessity of this prevention,

vention-that we declared, that if His Majesty should refuse to joyne with us therein, the two Houses of Parliament were enabled by their own authority, to provide for the repulsing of such imminent and evident dangers; not by any new Law of their own making, (as hath bin untruly suggested) but by the most ancient Law of this Kingdome.

And whereas his Majesty is pleased to disavow the having any such evill Councellors, as are mentioned in Our Declaration, to his knowledge, and we hold it our duties humbly to avow there are such, or else vve must say that all the ill things done of late in His Majesties name, have been done by himselfe; vvherein vve should neither follow the direction of the Lavv, nor the affections of out own hearts, vvhich is as much as may be, to cleare His Majesty from all imputation of misgovernment, and to lay the fault upon his Ministers; the false accusation of six members of the Parliament, the justifying Master Attorney in that false accusation, the deny all of the *Militia*, the sharp messages to both Houses, contrary to the custome of former Kings, the long and remote absence of His Majesty from the Parliament, the heavy and wrongfull taxes upon both Houses, the cherishing and countenancing a discontented party in the Kingdome against them: These certainly are the fruits of very ill councel, apt to put the Kingdome into a combustion; and the authors of these vill councels we conceive must needs be known to His Majesty, and we hope our labouring with His Majesty to have these discovered and wrought to a just censure, will not so much wound his honour in the opinion of his good Subjects, as his labouring to preserve and conceale them.

And whereas divers exceptions are here taken concerning

cerning the *Militia*: First, *That His Majesty never denyed the thing, but excepted the persons, except for Corporations only, that he denyed the way.*

To which we answer, that the exception taken of *London*, and all other great Townes and Castles, which make a great part of the Kingdome, and for the way of Ordinance it is ancient, more speedy, more easily alterable, and all these respects more proper for the present occasion then a Bill: which his Majestie calls the good old way of imposing upon the Subject. It seemes that neither his Majesties royall predecessors nor our predecessours have heretofore beene of that opinion, for 37. *Ed.* 3. we finde that record.

The Chancelour made declaration of the chalenge of Parliament, the King desires to know the griefe of his Subjects, and to redresse inormities; The last day of the Parliament the King demanded of the whole Estates whether they would have such things agreed on by way of Ordinance or statute, who answered by way of Ordinance, for that they might amend the same at their pleasure; and so it was.

But his Majesty objects further, *That there is somewhat in the Preface to which he could not consent with justice to his honour and innocencie, and that thereby he is excluded from any power in the disposing of it.*

These objections may seeme somewhat, but will indeede apeare nothing, when it shall bee considered that nothing in the preamble layes any charge upon his Majesty now in the body of the Ordinance, that excludes his Majesties royall authority, in the disposing or execution of it, but onely tis provided that it should be signified by both houses of Parliament, and let all the world judge whether we have not reason to insist upon it, that the strength of the Kingdome should rather be ordered

according to the direction and advice of the great Kingdome equally intrusted by the King and Kingdome; then that the safety of the *King* and *Kingdom* should be left at the devotion of a few unknowne Councellors, many of them not intrusted at all by the *King* in any publique way not at all confided in by the *Kingdome*.

If the matter of these our Votes be according to *Law*, we hope His Majesty will alow the Subjects to bee bound by them, because he hath laid *He will make Law the rule of his power*.

And if the Question be, Whether that be Law which the Lords and Commons have once declared to be so, who shall be Judge? Not His *Majesty*, for the *King* judgeth not of matters of Law, but by his Courts; and his Courts, though sitting by his authority, expect not his assent in matters of Law, nor any other Courts, for they cannot judge in that case, because they are inferiour, no appeale lying from Parliament, the judgement whereof is in the eye of the Law, the Kings judgement in his highest Court, though the King in his person be neither present, nor assenting thereunto.

The Votes at which His Majesty takes exception are these:

1. *That the Kings absence, so far remote from his Parliament, is not onely an obstruction, but may be a destruction to the affaires of Ireland.*

2. *That when the Lords and Commons shall declare what the Law of the Land is, to have this not onely questioned and controverted, but contradicted, and a command that it should not be obeyed, is a high breach of the privilege of Parliament.*

3. *That those persons that advised His Majesty to absent himselfe from the Parliament, are enemies to the peace of the Kingdome.*

That in case of this extreame danger, and His Majesties refusall, the Ordinance of Parliament agreed on by both Houses for the Militia, doth oblige the people, and ought to be obeyed by the Fundamentall Laws of this Kingdome.

By all which it doth appeare, that there is no colour for this tax, that we goe about to introdnce a new Law, much lesse to exercise an arbitrary power, but indeed to prevent it, for this Law is as old as the Kingdome, that the Kingdome must not be without a means to preserve it selfe, which that it may be done without confusion, this Nation hath intrusted certaine hands with a power to provide in a regular way for the good and safety of the whole, which power by the constitution of this Kingdome is in His Majesty, and his Parliament together.

And whereas the desire of a good understanding between the King and Parliament, are on both parts so earnestly desired as here protest of his Majesty to be in him, and we have sufficiently testified to bee in our selves, It seemes strange we should be so long asunder, it can be nothing else but evill and malicious counsail, misrepresenting our carriage to him, and indeposing his favour to us.

Also We desire the Kingdome to take notice of this last most desperate and mischevous plot of the malignant party, that is acted and prosecuted in many parts of the Kingdome, under plauseable notions of stirring them up to a care of preserving the Kings prerogative, maintaining the discipline of the Church, upholding and continuing the reverence and solemnity of Gods service, encouraging of learning, upon these grounds, Diverse mutenous Petitions have been framed in London, Kent, and other Counties, and sundry of His Majesties Subjects have

have been solicited to declare themselves for the King against the Parliament, and many foule aspertions have beene cast upon our proceedings, as if we had been not onely negligent but raverie in these points, whereas wee desire nothing more then to maintain the purity of religion, and to honour the King in all his just prerogatives, and for encouragement and advancement of piety and learning, we have earnestly endeavoured that all parishes may have learned pious & sufficient Preachers; and all such preachers competent livings, other bills are in preparation for the Kings profit and honour, the peoples safety and prosperity; in the proceedings whereof we are much hindered by His Majesties absence from the Parliament, and these present distractions but yet we doubt not but that we shall overcome all at last, if the people suffered not themselves not to be deceived with false and specious shewes, and so drawn to betray us to their own undoing, who have ever been willing to hazard the undoing of our selves, that they might not be betrayed by our neglect of the trust reposed in us, but if it were possible they should prevail herein, yet wee would not faile through Gods grace still to persist in our duties, and to look beyond our own lives, estates, and advantages, as those who think nothing worthy the enjoying, without the liberty and peace of the Kingdome; nor any thing too good to be hazarded in discharge of our consciences, for the obtaining of it: And shall alwayes repose our trust and confidence upon the protection of Almighty God, which we are confident shall never be wanting to us, (while we seek his glory) as we have found it hitherto wonderfully, going along with us in all our proceedings.

FINIS.